

In the Description

Please amend the following paragraphs to the description as follows:

1. On page 1, lines 4-7, please amend the first paragraph:

CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is a U.S. national application under 37 C.F.R. § 371(b) of International Application Serial No. PCT/US2004/033470 filed October 12, 2004, which claims priority under 35 U.S.C. 119(e) to U.S. Provisional Application Serial No. 60/510,756, entitled “PATIENT EQUIPMENT SUPPORT SYSTEM,” filed October 13, 2003, which is expressly incorporated by reference herein.

2. On page 4, lines 17-30, please amend the paragraph as follows:

In Fig. 1, the illustrative patient care equipment rack is an IV pole 102 for supporting an IV container 104. However, it should be understood that the patient care equipment rack may very well be any support, such as a rack 106 shown in Fig. 6, for supporting any desired type of patient care equipment including any one or more of the following: heart monitoring equipment, medical gas delivery equipment, infusion management systems, equipment monitors, patient monitors, defibrillators, and the like, many of which are directly connected to a patient via lines or tubes. The rack 106 has a downwardly extending post 108. The term “rack” is used in the specification and claims to mean a frame, a support, a stand and the like for supporting patient care equipment. ~~U.S. Patent Application (7175-74605), Serial No. 10/802,289, titled “PATIENT CARE EQUIPMENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM,” filed March 17, 2004 (now U.S. Patent Application Publication No. US 2005/0000019-A1[[I]]],~~ discloses such patient care equipment rack and is incorporated by reference herein.

3. On pages 8 lines 21 through page 9, lines 1-9, please amend the paragraph as follows:

Thus, a hospital bed 20 is provided for use with a patient care equipment rack 106 having a downwardly extending post 108. The hospital bed 20 includes a lower frame 24, a

plurality of casters 26 to support the lower frame 24 and an upper frame 28 supported above the lower frame 24 and movable relative to the lower frame 24 between a raised position and a lowered position. A rail 110 is coupled to the upper frame 28 to extend substantially along the head end 40 of the upper frame 28. A carriage 112 is coupled to the rail 110 for movement along the rail 112. The carriage 112 is lockable at a selected one of a plurality of locations along the rail 110. The carriage 112 has an upwardly opening socket 118 for receiving the downwardly extending post 116 of the patient care equipment rack 106 so that the patient care equipment rack 106 is transferred from a support structure, such as a mobile stand, a service cart, an ambulatory chair, and the like, to the patient support 20 when the downwardly extending post 108 is generally aligned with the upwardly opening socket 118 and the upper frame 28 is raised or the support structure carrying the patient care equipment rack 106 is lowered. Likewise, the patient care equipment rack 106 is transferred from the hospital bed 20 to a support structure when the upper frame 28 is lowered or the support structure is raised. Reference is made to the above-mentioned U.S. Patent Application (7175-74605), Serial No. 10/802,289, titled "~~PATIENT CARE EQUIPMENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM~~," filed March 17, 2004 (now U.S. Patent Application Publication No. US 2005/0000019-A1[[]]), for additional examples of how the patient care equipment rack is transferred between a hospital bed and a stand.